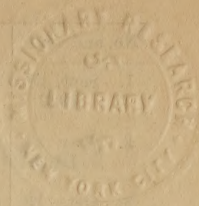


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Africa  
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Ethiopia

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ABYSSINIA No. 1 (1925)

## CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

### Abyssinian Raids and Incursions into British Territory

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PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND OF HIS MAJESTY

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Abyssinia

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## Correspondence respecting Abyssinian Raids and Incursions into British Territory.

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No. 1.

*Sir R. Coryndon to Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies.*

Sir, *Nairobi, Kenya, September 28, 1922.*

WITH reference to alleged slave raids on the part of Abyssinians into the northern territories of this colony, I have the honour to inform you that the delay in reporting has been due to the necessity for making enquiries from the remote stations in the Northern Frontier District.

2. Although Abyssinian raids into British territory are undertaken with a primary view to capture of stock or for hunting game, where opportunity offers the capture of women and children does take place, though happily very few instances occur.

3. The Gabbra, who used to live in our territory near the frontier, having no protection from us went into Abyssinia to live, but again fled back to our territory and sought refuge at Marsabit. The reason they gave was that it was not the loss of stock to the bandits and Gallaba so much as the taking of the women and children that they could bear no longer. This raiding should now cease, in some measure, as there is to be a garrison at Northern Horr, and later there will be one on the lake shore when the proposal to put boats at Liongalani is carried into practice.

I have, &c.

R. T. CORYNDON, *Governor.*

---

No. 2.

*Mr. Russell to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.*

My Lord, *Addis Ababa, May 23, 1923.*

THE Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis came to see me on his return to the capital after an absence of some months. He had been to the Boran, of which province, as your Lordship knows, he is titular Governor, and draws the revenues. The Fitaurari told me of the conference at Mega with Captain D. E. Cochrane, officer-in-charge of the British frontier post at Moyale, of which a report had already reached me through the Governor of Kenya. He had been very favourably impressed by this officer, and spoke in warm terms of him. He said he had much appreciated the just and friendly attitude shown by Captain Cochrane in discussing frontier questions. The Fitaurari told me that he had found the province much impoverished by reason of the emigration of the natives with their herds to British

territory, but he well understood the causes of their preferring British rule, and he admitted that we could not be expected to compel their return. I referred to the present satisfactory state of the frontier as regards the maintenance of order, and the great improvement that had taken place in this respect in the past year and a half. I reminded him that I had often in the past urged that he should go and see the situation for himself. I was glad that he had been able to do so. I hoped he now realised how important it was to the good relations of our two countries that there should be no more trouble in that direction. The Fitaurari agreed, and said that he had taken measures to ensure it.

I have, &c.

CLAUDE RUSSELL.

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No. 3.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, October 13, 1923.*

I AM directed by the Duke of Devonshire to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, a copy of a despatch, with enclosures from the Governor of Kenya, regarding an incursion of Abyssinians into Kenya territory in March last, which formed the subject of a question in the House of Commons on the 17th April.

I am, &c.

H. J. READ.

---

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

*Sir R. Coryndon to the Duke of Devonshire.*

My Lord,

*Nairobi, September 4, 1923.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a communication received from His Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Addis Ababa on the subject of an incursion of Abyssinians into Kenya territory which took place in March last.

I have, &c.

R. T. CORYNDON, *Governor.*

---

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

*Mr. Russell to Sir R. Coryndon.*

Sir,

*Addis Ababa, July 17, 1923.*

I BROUGHT to the knowledge of the Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis the facts respecting the Abyssinian raid of March last and the consequent operations under Captain Hallows.



My informant, who saw the Fitaurari, tells me that he was already informed of what had occurred. He stated that Dejazmatch Balcha of Sidamo had early this year given authority to Lij Ababa to go on a hunting expedition with 150 men. It appears that the latter is a well-known hunter, and the Dejazmatch must have known, said the Fitaurari, that if he went to hunt elephants he must cross the British frontier to find them. Fitaurari Ayale, who had news of Lij Ababa's intentions, caused the roads to be watched and tried to intercept him, but unsuccessfully, though a few of his men were captured.

Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis produced a man who had recently arrived from the Boran with news. This man said that of the eighty men who accompanied Lij Ababa twenty only had returned. Besides those killed, twenty odd were wounded, and the rest had died of thirst. The twenty survivors had returned in a state of starvation with nothing but their rifles. Lij Ababa was one of these.

The Fitaurari said that Dejazmatch Balcha had reported that he had arrested and chained Lij Ababa on his arrival at Sidamo, but the Fitaurari was disinclined to believe this. The Fitaurari announced his intention to ask the Central Government to order Dejazmatch Balcha to send Lij Ababa to the capital for punishment. The Fitaurari was evidently not displeased to hear of the misfortunes which had befallen Dejazmatch Balcha's people.

I think we may conclude that, thanks to Captain Hallowes' energetic and successful action, the raiders in question received a salutary lesson, and that there will be small inclination for such enterprises for some time to come.

I have, &c.

CLAUD RUSSELL.

No. 4.

*Mr. Russell to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.*

My Lord,

*Addis Ababa, September 29, 1923.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose herein a translation of a proclamation recently issued and communicated to me by the Abyssinian Government against slave-raiding, and providing for the repatriation of slaves so captured. Proclamations in regard to the slave trade have appeared periodically for some years past, and have remained without appreciable effect. This proclamation will no doubt share the fate of similar pronouncements on the same subject.

I have, &c.

CLAUD RUSSELL.

## Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

*Abyssinian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Russell.*

(Translation.)

AFTER greetings.

I am ordered by my master, His Highness Ras Taffari, Heir Apparent to the Throne of Ethiopia, to enclose herein a copy of a proclamation recently issued by the Abyssinian Government in confirmation of previous proclamations against the slave trade, stating that no man may sell a human being as a slave, and also the penalties to be imposed on the Governors, local chiefs, headmen and others who disregard the terms of the proclamation. If anyone commits such offences he shall be sentenced to death. I hope that this letter will make it clear to you that the Abyssinian Government continue most anxious to suppress the practice of slavery.

(Seal of the Abyssinian Foreign Office.)

SAHLE SADALOU.

*September 21, 1923 (10th Maskaram 1916).*

## Enclosure 2 in No. 4.

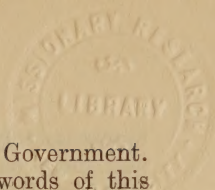
*Proclamation.*

(Translation.)

[By the Conquering Lion from the Tribe of Judah, and the Appointed of God, Judith, Empress of Ethiopia, Daughter of Menelik II; and Ras Taffari, Heir Apparent to the Throne of Ethiopia.]

His Majesty the Emperor Menelik II many times made proclamation against the trade in slaves, saying let none sell or buy a man as a slave, and since then many other such-like proclamations have been made. The cause of these proclamations and the reason why some men were declared slaves were that certain nations were at war with us, and this had caused money to be spent which these nations had to repay by their labour, and this also, that they might learn virtue by communication with Christians. Now it seems that you break these proclamations, and go forth of your own wills to spoil other lands and to carry off men that you may sell them as slaves. If these men obey, you keep them in slavery, and if they obey not, you slay them. Now if any man be found to commit such offences, know you that such a man will be condemned to die. If anyone be found who has been taken from his country as a slave after this proclamation was made, such a one shall be asked the name of his country, and the Governor of such country shall have to pay a fine of 1,000 dollars for each slave, and the headmen and the chiefs shall each pay 500 dollars. From now and hereafter anyone who has been taken from his country as a slave shall receive a warrant of freedom, and he shall have the right to return to his own land. Any man who is taken from his own land and made a slave after this proclamation was made must return to his land, and





we shall decide the tax such men are to pay to the Government. I have named certain men who will carry out the words of this proclamation, and if you know anyone that shall transgress against them and you prove it before the judge, one-third of the penalty before-named shall be yours.

*September 15, 1923 (4th Maskaram 1916).*

No. 5.

*Mr. Russell to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.*

My Lord, *Addis Ababa, October 20, 1923.*

I FEEL constrained to call your Lordship's attention to certain proceedings at Moyale, on the Kenya frontier. The matter in question is set forth in the enclosed extract from a report addressed to me by Captain Cochrane. The migration of native tribesmen from Abyssinian to British territory is a long-standing cause of trouble in the district in question, but the expulsion of these people, who only seek refuge from the exactions and tyranny of the Abyssinian authorities, is against all precedent, as it is, in my opinion, against every principle of justice and humanity. Captain Cochrane himself would appear to have misgivings on the subject. I fear, however, that the assurances given him by Ato Gabru are worthless. I am distressed to think of the treatment to which these unfortunate people have doubtless been subjected on falling again into the power of their old oppressors. Your Lordship will note that some women of the tribe abandoned their families and fled back into British territory rather than face what they knew must be their fate.

I have called the attention of the Governor of Kenya to the above by telegraph, but I should be glad to think that my protest may have your Lordship's support in the proper quarter.

It may be remembered that Captain Cochrane's proposed action in regard to the use of the frontier wells has latterly been a cause of anxiety to this Legation.

I have, &c.

CLAUD RUSSELL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

*Extract from Report by Captain D. E. Cochrane, Officer in Charge, Moyale, of September 11, 1923.*

*Yaben.*

IN my last report reference was made to the Yaben crossing into our territory, and that a request from Makuria Wolda Kidan (acting for Lij Ngash, Governor of the Liban Province) had been received asking for their return. The officer in charge, Wajir, was most successful in rounding up these people, and forwarded to me under escort some 47 men, 20 women—also children—400 camels, and

approximately 2,500 goats and sheep. Unfortunately half the goats and sheep succumbed on the waterless track from Wajir to Buna. (Captain Bailey informed me that he was aware that great loss would incur, but that this would prove a deterrent to a further transmigration of these people. I agree.)

In the meanwhile Hiloli Muhammad proceeded to Ogorch and rounded up some more of these people, together with their stock (about 200 camels and 460 goats), and located much more in the Gurar area.

I then convened all those captured and their stock at Buna, and proceeded with them to Adadajoli, where I handed them over to Ato Gabru.

These Yaben brought such strong charges of ill-treatment against Wolda Kidan that I did not feel justified in handing them over to him, and a copy of my letter which is attached will show the conditions on which I handed them over to Ato Gabru.

The women were chief complainants. They stated that they were outraged by Kidan's soldiery, and that rather than return they would lose their stock and children. (Many of them actually left their stock and got away, eighteen escaping back to Wajir, where there is a section of their tribe living.)

There are still many others and much stock not rounded up, but arrangements have been made that the Degodia chiefs, with escort, can collect the others.

We held a "baraza" at Adadajoli, and Ato Gabru promised the Yaben that he would give them a place to live near him, and that they should receive proper treatment in future, that the whole matter would be referred to Addis Ababa, and that their grievances should be looked into. Eventually they went off with Ato Gabru apparently quite happy and satisfied that life would be more tolerable in future.

\* \* \* \* \*

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

*Captain Cochrane to Ato Gabru.*

Greetings,

*Moyale, August 27, 1923.*

As you are aware, Makuria Wolda Kidan wrote to me some time ago that many Degodia had crossed to our side and asked me to collect and return them.

I immediately wrote to the officer in charge, Wajir, and also went out myself to collect these people.

As a result I have collected over 120 Yaben, 3,000 sheep and goats and 700 camels. The exact figures I will give you when handing over.

\* The fact of you being at Gaddaduma alone allows me to hand these people over, and I will hand them over to you and to no one else.

Although I do not give credence to half these people tell me, I am convinced that ill-treatment is alone responsible for them



coming to our side. They cry bitterly about the treatment that has been meted out to them, and they are terrified at the idea of being handed over.

You, I know, will treat these wretched people humanely, but when they pass out of your hands, I charge you to assure yourself that their humane treatment is guaranteed for the future.

As you are aware, my Government would never hand over refugees (who had fled to us on account of ill-treatment) if it thought it was sending them back to the hell from which they escaped, but I hand them over to you with full confidence that you will look after their interests and assure yourself of their fair treatment in the future. We do not want these people on our side, and we want to do everything we can to work in harmony with and to help you and your Government on the frontier. We will always return your people if we consider they have not fled to us from ill-treatment, but should it be proved that these people, whom I now return, receive anything more than a just punishment for running away or are mutilated or deprived of their freedom or more than a reasonable proportion of their stock, then I can assure you that my Government will not in future consider the return of your refugees. When you send these people back to the Liban Province, will you please inform the Governor of that province that I have sent a full list of the refugees to Addis Ababa, including the women, and I have asked Fitaaurari Hapta Giorgis to make sure that these people receive fair treatment on their return, and if not to punish severely those responsible.

This is a matter solely for you to consider, but if you would let, say, Maalim Liban or another come over to me in a few months' time and let me know that the people are all right, then it would give me great encouragement to help you in the future and you could always rely on me to help you regain your tenants.

I presume you realise the work entailed in collecting these people, and the trouble we have taken to help your Government in the matter.

D. E. COCHRANE, *Captain,*  
*Officer in Charge.*

No. 6.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 15, 1923.*

WITH reference to recent events on the Abyssinian frontier between Lake Rudolph and Italian Somaliland, I am directed by the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston to transmit to you, to be laid before the Duke of Devonshire, the accompanying copy of a despatch and enclosures from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa\* on the subject of the migration of Yaben tribesmen into British territory.

\* No. 5.

2. Mr. Russell is distressed at the sufferings which appear to have attended the enforced return of these unfortunate people to Abyssinia, and regards the assurances of Ato Gabru as unlikely to protect them from persecution at the hands of the Abyssinian authorities. I am to enquire whether his Grace is satisfied that the orders of the Kenya Government in regard to migrations from Abyssinian territory have in fact been carried out with due consideration to the dictates of humanity.

I am, &c.

G. R. WARNER.

No. 7.

*The Duke of Devonshire to Sir R. Coryndon.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, November 29, 1923.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for your consideration, the accompanying copy of a letter with enclosures from the Foreign Office,\* on the subject of the movements of Abyssinian tribesmen on the frontier between Lake Rudolf and Italian Somaliland.

2. In furnishing me with your observations on this letter and its enclosures, I would ask you to consider whether it would be possible as an alternative to the enforced repatriation of Abyssinian subjects who pass over the border into British territory to allow them to proceed to another district where the vested interests of those already in occupation of the land are not so much affected. If such a solution of the difficulty is not feasible, I should be glad to learn whether you can suggest any other method of dealing with the situation.

I have, &c.

DEVONSHIRE.

No. 8.

*Sir R. Coryndon to the Duke of Devonshire.*

My Lord Duke,

*Nairobi, December 6, 1923.*

IN continuation of my telegram reporting a raid by a party of Abyssinians, I have the honour to inform your Grace that on the 2nd September last a patrol of eleven African ranks, mounted infantry from Mureissi, came in contact with a party of Abyssinians at Lokitet, near Loima, Turkana, who promptly opened fire on the patrol.

In the ensuing engagement the following casualties were inflicted :—

Killed Abyssinians	...	...	...	...	4
Killed armed Turkana	...	...	...	...	4
Captured Abyssinians	...	...	...	...	1
3rd King's African Rifles	...	...	...	...	Nil.

\* No. 6.



The following arms and ivory were also taken :—

11 rifles, Fusil Gras.  
466 rounds ammunition, Fusil Gras.  
40 rounds '303.  
1 pistol.  
3 elephant tusks.

I have, &c.  
(For the Governor),  
E. B. DENHAM.

No. 9.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*

Sir, *Downing Street, February 14, 1924.*  
I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Thomas to enclose, for Mr. Secretary MacDonald's information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor of Kenya, dated the 10th January, 1924, forwarding a report of the District Commissioner, Moyale, on the subject of slave raids from Abyssinia.

I am, &c.  
H. J. READ.

Enclosure in No. 9.

*Sir R. Coryndon to the Duke of Devonshire.*

My Lord, *Kenya, January 10, 1924.*  
I HAVE the honour to forward a report by the District Commissioner, Moyale, Captain Cochrane, dealing with slave raids from Abyssinia.

I have, &c.  
(For the Governor),  
E. B. DENHAM.

*Captain Cochrane to Officer in Charge, Meru.*

Sir, *Moyale, October 19, 1923.*  
I HAVE the honour to forward this my report on the subject of slave raids from Abyssinia.

As a result of living on the frontier of Southern Abyssinia for some years, and of making one journey into the Abyssinian hinterland, my experience leads me to endorse the veracity of the recently published newspaper articles, with the exception of the statement that "within the last six months there have been several raids in Kenya colony." Judging by the context, the writer means "slave raids"; if so, I fail to understand to what he alludes.

During the period mentioned there was a big ivory-hunting raid, organised and led by Balambras Abbaba, of Agra Salaam, which was located in the vicinity of Horr by a contingent of 5th King's African Rifles under Captain Hallowes, M.C. Severe casualties

were inflicted and prisoners taken, and of the estimated strength of sixty raiders only seven are reported as having reached Agra Salaam. Besides this there have been several petty cattle raids, which have been frustrated by our patrols; but, to my knowledge, there has been no single instance of a slave having been made in Kenya and taken across the border. We are on very confidential and good terms with our native subjects, and it seems to me most improbable that a slave raid could have occurred without our knowledge.

It is perfectly true that a tribe of people called Dais, living on the banks of Lake Rudolph, have been practically exterminated by Abyssinian raiders. They themselves have been enslaved and their small herds taken. This dates back to 1916 and 1917, and since then the Government have protected this area. I won't, however, comment further on this, as the area is outside my district, and Colonel Llewellyn, Officer Commanding Troops, Kenya, is thoroughly *au fait* with the matter, and doubtless has given first-hand information on the subject.

Up till two years ago Abyssinians were regularly coming to this office and claiming the return of absconding slaves. In no instance, do I understand, was a slave returned by us. Nowadays isolated cases occur when an Abyssinian appears at the office and says his son or daughter has been kidnapped or enticed across the border; enquiries usually show that the child is an absconding slave, and the Abyssinian leaves this office a very disgruntled being.

I will say practically every (but think every) Abyssinian on the frontier has a slave or slaves, but in cases of ill-treatment they have a safe harbour on this side, if they have the pluck to try and are successful in reaching the border.

On my return from Mega some five slaves absconded from their owners at Daka Roba and shadowed my "safari" unknown to me. Mounted Abyssinians followed me and accused my men of hiding them and helping them away. They several times galloped up to the "safari," but, as they were unable to locate the people, returned, and, I regret to say, caught three of them, the other two being successful in crossing the frontier.

On my visit to Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis, at Mega, an Abyssinian officer was sent with an escort to meet me at Marimo. He and his soldiers were followed by absolute babies (children at home of the same age would not be allowed out of sight of a nursemaid), who carried their rifles and ran behind their mules. Pity for them was mingled with admiration for their marvellous staying powers. Every hour or so when the mites showed signs of fatigue, their masters relieved them of the rifles and in cases took them up behind them on their mules. There are at least two or three Abyssinians living at Moyale who have slaves. It is very beastly, but what is one to do? They are mostly children, and if I took them away it would be quite impracticable to form a Government baby farm, and I could not take them and hand them over to someone else, as all are imbued with the slavery idea, and they would simply become someone else's chattel. To take them away without providing for



them would make their case worse than before. My police keep a careful eye on them, and any ill-treatment would receive summary punishment, as in the case of anyone else ill-treating a child or assaulting a person. To sum up, the Abyssinians on the frontier have slaves, but those in proximity to the border do not ill-treat them as they have a harbour on our side.

I notice the correspondents do not state that a large number of slaves are actually purchased from their parents. This is a common practice in Southern Abyssinia, and I have known many instances. A child of 8 is bought for from 40 dollars to 60 dollars. These become the property of the buyer, who may again resell at a profit.

A curious instance is before me at present. An ex-interpreter of Moyale was returning here from Addis Ababa to square up his affairs. He was drowned *en route*. His wife, however, arrived, and amongst her *entourage* were two female slaves whom she purchased at 45 dollars per head *en route*. These children are running about the boma here perfectly happy, and appear to take an interest in their work. If I tackled the good lady on the subject, she would probably tell me that they were receiving wages. What can one do?

I have, &c.

D. E. COCHRANE.

No. 10.

*Mr. Russell to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Addis Ababa, March 21, 1924.*

In the autumn of last year I had occasion to address an enquiry to the Abyssinian Government in regard to a case of attempted slave-trading reported by one of His Majesty's consuls. After prolonged delay, and repeated reminders, I received a reply to the effect that the matter was an internal concern of the Abyssinian Government respecting which they did not feel called upon to furnish information. On receipt of this communication, I pointed out to Ras Taffari that the slave trade was an internal question in which His Majesty's Government took a legitimate interest, and in regard to which Abyssinia had recently given undertakings to the League of Nations. I said that I hoped he would reconsider the propriety of the note he had addressed to me, and that, meanwhile, I would abstain from communicating it to His Majesty's Government. I have now, after further insistence, received a second note in the same sense as that mentioned above. I have acknowledged receipt of it, and expressed my opinion that the tone and substance of His Highness's reply will create a regrettable impression on His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

CLAUD RUSSELL.

## No. 11.

*Sir R. Coryndon to Mr. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of State  
for the Colonies.*

Sir,

*Nairobi, April 7, 1924.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your predecessor's despatch of the 29th November last\* on the subject of the forcible repatriation of certain Abyssinian tribesmen.

2. The constant migrations of Abyssinian subjects into British territory have been a source of concern to the authorities in the Northern Frontier area for some time. In the majority of cases the migrations have been caused by the maladministration of the southern portion of Abyssinia, and many natives have obtained refuge in British territory from ill-treatment by the Abyssinian authorities.

3. It must be remembered, however, that as regards the interests of the northern territories of this colony the scarcity of water is at the root of the matter. The position was at last reached when it became necessary to choose between the acceptance of refugees in the cause of humanity and the interests of our own natives, who would suffer severely by any further migration. The officer in charge of the Northern Frontier District asked for instructions in the matter, and it was left to his discretion to refuse to allow the influx of further stock if likely to prove detrimental to the interests of our own natives. Refugees without stock fleeing from injustice were allowed to remain in British territory, but among these nomadic people it is a rare occurrence that a native should travel without stock.

4. In the particular case mentioned in the despatch under reference the natives concerned were Degodi, a Somali tribe, and it is convenient at this point to refer to the different conditions arising from the migration of Somali tribes and that of others, such as the Boran and Gabbra, of Galla extraction, with regard to whom the arguments in paragraphs 2 and 3 above are chiefly concerned.

5. You will be aware that history shows a constant trend of migration to the south and the west of all Somali tribes; it is a fact, for instance, that the Somali invasion from the north and east only reached Jubaland some sixty years ago, and that before that time there were no Somalis in the area which is now Kenya Colony; the methods employed are invariably peaceful penetration until a sound footing in the area has been obtained, when a cause of quarrel with the inhabitants is found with the result that the warlike Somali defeats and enslaves the more peaceful and earlier population and expels them from the area.

As soon as Government took over the administration of these northern areas it became clear that the Somalis, following their normal trend of migration, would oust all the weaker tribes, such as the Galla, unless definite steps were taken in regard to the movements of Somali tribes. It has therefore been the constant policy to prevent Somali migration to the west of the present Jubaland—

\* No. 7.



## **ERRATA, PAGE 15.**

At the end of the paragraph numbered 6, for “ paragraph 2 above ” read “ paragraph 3 above.”

At the end of the first sentence in the paragraph numbered 9, for “ paragraph 7 be carried into effect ” read “ paragraph 8 be carried into effect.”





Northern Frontier boundary; in other words, the Somali tribes (with the exception of such people as the Ajuran, who had already settled in the Northern Frontier District and intermarried with the Galla when administration of the area was commenced) are confined to the Jubaland Province.

As the Jubaland Province already possesses as much stock as the water and grazing facilities permit, it is clear that, in furtherance of the policy indicated, no large migration of Somali tribes into Kenya can be permitted.

6. The position in regard to the Galla tribes, such as the Boran and Gabbra, has been somewhat different inasmuch as the tribes have been cut into two parts by the Abyssinian boundary, and the Northern Frontier area has in the past been capable of absorbing additional stock. The possibility of accepting refugees without disturbing the vested interests of our own natives has allowed Government to pursue the policy as stated in paragraph 2 above.

7. In regard to paragraph 2 of your despatch, I regret that at the present time there is no area in Kenya where the vested interests of those already in occupation would not be seriously prejudiced by the acceptance of refugees from Abyssinia.

8. There is, however, a solution of the difficulty which may be found in the opening up of large areas in the Northern Frontier District by the provision of wells. The problem in those districts is the lack of water, and not of grazing, and if wells can be provided in various localities the stock-carrying capacity will be very largely increased. In a despatch which follows I am recommending, with other proposals, the allocation from the assisted loan of £2,500 to provide for water-boring apparatus, &c., and I would strongly urge that this expenditure may be approved. There can be little doubt that a careful survey of the country will show the possibility of sinking wells in many places which now suffer from absence of water, and I am convinced that the solution suggested will be effective in removing the disabilities which now exist in the Northern Frontier District and which otherwise present insoluble difficulties, resulting in cases of great hardship to individuals.

9. I have referred above to the difference between the Somali and Galla tribes as I am anxious to make it clear, in the event of future negotiations, that it will be necessary to maintain the policy in regard to Somali tribes, even should the solution suggested in paragraph 7 be carried into effect. Further, this scheme offers possibilities of developing the Northern Frontier District as a stock-grazing country. If you are inclined to favour this proposal, I shall be glad if you will inform me by cable so that a preliminary survey may be made.

10. In view of the arguments adduced, it will be clear that the forcible repatriation of the Degodi to Abyssinia was inevitable; I would point out, however, that had the Degodi been allowed to stay at Wajir, serious losses of stock, both of the Degodi and of our own people, would have occurred as a result of overcrowding and the consequent shortage of pasturage within measurable distance of the wells.

11. In this connection I enclose for your information a letter which has just been received from the officer-in-charge, Northern Frontier District, reporting the migration of a very large number of Degodi. I have no alternative but to issue instructions that these people should be returned to Abyssinia, all possible steps being taken to guard against loss and suffering.

As a preliminary step I have sent a telegram to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa reporting the migration and stating that the Degodi are being collected in one locality with a view to repatriation at a later date.

Fortunately the rains in the Northern Frontier District have been exceptionally heavy, and there is no further immediate action necessary; it will be possible therefore for His Britannic Majesty's Minister to make representations for some degree of reform and for a humane treatment of the refugees when it becomes necessary to return them to the Yaben Province in the course of the next few months. Past experience has proved, however, that little can be expected in the way of reform in Southern Abyssinia unless some new method of diplomatic pressure can be devised.

I would urge therefore that the whole question of the administration of Southern Abyssinia should be strongly represented to the League of Nations.

I have, &c.

R. T. CORYNDON, *Governor.*

Enclosure 1 in No. 11.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Muirhead to Sir R. Coryndon.*

*Northern Frontier District Headquarters,*

*Meru, March 12, 1924.*

Sir,

I HAVE to report that information has been received that a large number of Abyssinian Degodia, estimated at 3,000 adults and 30,000 head of stock, have recently migrated into British territory. They have scattered in the Wajir and Serenli districts, some even as far south as the Afmadu district, latter not yet confirmed. Degodia chiefs have appeared before officer-in-charge, Gurreh, and also officer-in-charge, Wajir districts. They complain of cruelty at the hands of Abyssinian officials, and refuse definitely to return to Abyssinia. The chiefs of the Degodia brought in men who had been cruelly mutilated by, they say, Abyssinian officials or their soldiers. They also complain that their women have been raped. The officer-in-charge, Gurreh, who left Mandera a few days ago after this incursion, also states that some Degodia chiefs produced men before him who had been mutilated.

To recapitulate. In December last the officer-in-charge, Gurreh, reported that British territory was clear of Abyssinian Degodia. They had voluntarily gone back to Abyssinia, as their friends there had told them that under Ato Gabru, the Abyssinian military official in charge of their district, they were being well administered and treated justly.



Shortly after this, Ato Gabru was recalled to Addis Ababa, and Lij Beli sent to administer the Degodia in his place. Lij Beli was formerly in charge of Abyssinian Dolo, and lived at the junction of the Daua and Juba Rivers. About March or April 1923, Lij Beli was sent to Addis Ababa in chains consequent on his misrule of the tribes in his districts. He was apparently pardoned and sent to relieve Ato Gabru. Since his arrival amongst the Degodia it is reported that his soldiers have recommenced to ill-treat the Degodia and heavily fining them for trivial offences. Hence the migration of not only part, but the whole, of Degodia to British territory. As you are aware, the grazing and water facilities for British subjects in the Northern Frontier District is already barely sufficient, and this large incursion of stock can certainly not be placed in any district in the Northern Frontier District without causing hardship and loss of stock to our own people.

In my opinion, the stock must be returned. I understand the policy regarding Abyssinian immigrants is to return stock, but not their owners, unless the latter go voluntarily. There is nothing in writing to this effect in this office.

If the owners do not voluntarily accompany their stock they will become paupers in our territory with no means of support. On the other hand, they are certain to receive further maltreatment and be heavily fined if they do return with their stock. I forward herewith a letter received from Major A. T. Miles, His Britannic Majesty's consul, Mega, on the subject.

I would request that the matter be immediately taken up with the British Minister at Addis Ababa with a view to his bringing pressure to bear on the Abyssinian Government to recall Lij Beli and appoint in his place an official who can be relied upon to deal justly with the tribes in the Boran Province of Abyssinia.

Pending your reply, I have instructed officers concerned in the Northern Frontier District to locate the Degodia definitely and then await instructions.

I feel that the position is very acute and the matter very urgent, as if steps are not taken in the near future to relieve the Northern Frontier District of this Degodia stock, inter-tribal fights may take place owing to grazing and water difficulties.

T. S. MUIRHEAD, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*  
*Officer-in-charge, Northern Frontier District.*

Enclosure 2 in No. 11.

*Consul Miles to the Officer-in-charge, Northern Frontier  
District, Meru.*

(Extract.) *Moyale, February 15, 1924.*

... as you are aware, the British Government reserve to themselves the right to keep or hand over anyone who comes to our side for protection.

[13187]

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In the case of the Degodia tribe, who have now migrated into our territory, I understand they amount to some 3,000 persons, some 30,000 head of camels, a large amount of cattle and goats.

The whole tribe, I am told, have migrated owing to the continual over-taxation and persecution of the Abyssinian officials.

Naturally, this large number of people cannot be accommodated on the British side. Therefore, if the secretariat decide to repatriate this tribe, I should be glad if you could inform me so that I can be present when they are handed over in order to ensure that they are not ill-treated by the Abyssinians. As you are probably aware, Lij Beli, who is now in charge of the Degodia area, was chained and taken up by Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis to Addis Ababa for his misrule of the Degodia Province and for his cruelty to the Degodia. He was no doubt pardoned by Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis, and returned to his province five months ago. Since his return he has stated he will avenge himself on the Degodia—he has taken enormous taxes from them, and in one day one section were fined 1,000 head of camels and 11 men have been killed. If the Degodia are handed back to him there is no doubt that they will be extremely cruelly treated and will immediately endeavour to escape to British territory again.

I suggest, therefore, that the British Minister at Addis Ababa be informed in order that he can bring pressure to bear for a competent Abyssinian official to be sent down to take over the Degodia and administer that part of the Boran Province, otherwise this trouble will never cease.

A. MILES,

*His Britannic Majesty's Consul,  
Southern Abyssinia.*

## No. 12.

*Mr. MacDonald to Mr. Bullock (Addis Ababa).*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 31, 1924.*

RAS TAFFARI visited me at the Foreign Office on the 11th July, and I took the opportunity to have with him a political discussion which lasted for over an hour. His Imperial Highness was accompanied by Ras Hailu, Ras Siyyum, Ras Nado and Bilata Heroui. Mr. Home and Mr. Zaphiro acted as interpreters.

2. I began by raising the question of Abyssinian raids into British territory, and giving the details of recent raids. Ras Taffari asked me, in reply, to believe that any violations of the British frontiers would be punished by the Abyssinian Government, who had, in point of fact, always punished the chiefs responsible for raids, but that they could not dismiss the important Governors under whom the minor chieftains served unless the complicity of the Governors could be proved. He emphasised the difficulties of administration in Abyssinia. When His Majesty's Minister had protested against violations of the frontier below Maji,

the Governor and the men concerned had been summoned to Addis Ababa, but they had denied that they had ever crossed the frontier.

3. I replied that cases of violation of the frontier in the past had been so numerous that it was essential that some improvement should take place as soon as possible. The Abyssinian Government must see that further violations of the British frontier would not occur and that the raiders were properly punished. The Abyssinian Government should issue a special warning to their local authorities on this point, and the punishment should be severe. Ras Taffari assured me that he had done all in his power to improve matters in this direction. He recommended that the frontier (presumably that of South-Western Abyssinia) should be delimited as soon as possible by a boundary commission. I replied that in the past when there had been a question of frontier delimitation it had always fallen through, owing to the non-appearance of the necessary Abyssinian officials, but I promised to consider the matter and discuss it with His Imperial Highness at our next meeting.

I am, &c.

J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

### No. 13.

*Mr. J. H. Thomas to Sir R. Coryndon.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, August 8, 1924.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 7th April, and to inform you that I have given careful consideration to the question of the immigration of Abyssinian refugees into Kenya.

2. I am proposing to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that, as a first step, strong representations should be made by His Majesty's Government to the Government of Abyssinia on the subject, and that if no adequate steps are taken by the Government of Abyssinia as a result of such representations, the matter might be referred to the League of Nations.

3. With regard to paragraph 8 of your despatch, I consider that, while your proposals for well-boring in the Northern Frontier District may be desirable later for the benefit of the tribes resident in that district, it would not be expedient to adopt them as a means for providing for the Abyssinian refugees, until it has been definitely ascertained that the cause of the migration of these refugees cannot be removed.

I have, &c.

J. H. THOMAS.



No. 14.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*

Sir,

*Downing Street, August 12, 1924.*

I AM directed to request you to inform Mr. Secretary Ramsay MacDonald that at the meeting which was held at the Colonial Office on the 31st July it was thought that, as a first step, strong representations should be made by His Majesty's Government to the Government of Abyssinia on the subject of the migration of Abyssinian subjects, owing to ill-treatment by the Abyssinian authorities, into the Northern Frontier District of Kenya; and that if no adequate steps were taken by the Government of Abyssinia on the receipt of such representations, an appeal might be made to the League of Nations.

I am, &amp;c.

H. J. READ.

No. 15.

*Mr. Bullock to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Addis Ababa, August 14, 1924.*

I HAVE the honour to enclose copies of my despatch of the 13th August to the Acting Governor-General of the Sudan, transmitting copy of my letter to the Empress regarding the raids made by Dejazmatch Beru in the neighbourhood of Warra Garra in Sudan territory.

I have, &amp;c.

G. H. BULLOCK,

*Chargé d'Affaires.*

Enclosure 1 in No. 15.

*Mr. Bullock to the Acting Governor-General, Khartum.*

Sir,

*Addis Ababa, August 13, 1924.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence regarding the Warra Garra raid of 1923 and the raids during the present year, I have the honour to enclose copy of a note which I addressed to the Empress on this subject. After consideration, I asked for compensations and requested the Abyssinian Government to make it quite clear to Dejazmatch Beru that he would be removed from his post if any further incidents occurred.

I learn that the trouble arises partly from the fact that some Abyssinian chiefs possessed tributaries west of Major Gwynn's frontier, and have not yet abandoned all claim to them. It appears,

however, that Dejazmatch Beru has some pretensions to authority even as far as Nasser.

I have not yet received a reply to my note to the Empress, but I am informed that they are making enquiries.

I have, &c.

G. H. BULLOCK,

*Chargé d'Affaires.*

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Enclosure 2 in No. 15.

*Mr. Bullock to Her Majesty Judith, Empress of Ethiopia,  
Daughter of Emperor Menelik II.*

(After Greetings.)

Your Majesty,

I HAVE the honour to refer to your Majesty's letter of the 5th Sanei, 1916, regarding Dejazmatch Beru. I am glad that your Majesty is aware that British officers do not cross the frontier to make raids, and that your Majesty has instructed Dejazmatch Beru to avoid anything that might cause small troubles with the Government of the Sudan. I trust that your Majesty also informed Dejazmatch Beru plainly that there will be no further trouble if he keeps his forces on Abyssinian territory, for your Majesty may rest assured that no British officers will make a raid across the frontier.

Your Majesty is already aware that a raid was made last year with over 300 rifles on British territory round Warra Garra by Fitaurari Fanta under Dejazmatch Beru's orders, and as I am aware no steps have been taken to punish the persons responsible for these acts. No British official who raided the territory of a friendly neighbourhood would be permitted to retain his position for a moment; he would also be severely punished as well. Since Mr. Russell's letter of the 2nd April to His Highness Ras Taffari, I have received several letters from the Governor-General of the Sudan, to whom all his officers make reports of what is happening in their districts, and I am now in a position to give you information regarding two raids made by Dejazmatch Beru's officers during this year. Dejazmatch Beru sent Gerazmatch Getana to Fitaurari Mardessa with instructions to send an armed force to raid and collect tribute from the Nuer and Burun villages. Fitaurari Mardessa did not approve of these proceedings, but he sent Fitaurari Yambo and Kanyazmatch Manuri, who entered British territory and proceeded as far as places called Liss and Bar. The camp of this force was taken by the British police, and three Abyssinians and four rifles were captured. This party is believed to have numbered about 200.

On the 5th April the British Commissioner met another smaller party on Sudan territory on the west side of Fulu Gemi. This was the party of Bogala, who was sent by Dejazmatch Beru to collect tribute round Fulu Gemi.

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The British Commissioner also saw traces of four small hunting parties on Sudan territory.

Now your Majesty is well aware that after Major Gwynn visited this district in 1903 to make a map of the country, the frontier was determined by treaty with the Emperor Menelik, who also wrote letters to the Abyssinian chiefs near by that the newly-established frontier should not be violated by Abyssinians. Moreover, the correct frontier is well known to many Abyssinian officers living near there now, so that Dejazmatch Beru cannot possibly pretend that he is ignorant of the frontier determined by Menelik. Nevertheless, Dejazmatch Beru's new seal carries the device "Governor of the Abigar," and he pretends that his province extends as far as Nasser, and he is endeavouring to exercise authority on Sudan territory. It is quite clear that it is because of these iniquitous pretensions that he invents ridiculous stories of British forces entering Abyssinian territory.

These armed raids by the officers of Dejazmatch Beru are acts of war, which it is the mutual duty of civilised countries to punish and prevent, and I have to state with regret that the least I can ask of your Majesty is that you should inform Dejazmatch Beru that if his officers cross the frontier again he will be deprived of his province and be most severely punished, and I must also request that this threat should be fulfilled, should Dejazmatch Beru disobey your Majesty's commands. Fitaurari Fanta, who was the principal leader of these armed forces, which have resulted in several deaths and considerable loss to the inhabitants, should also be adequately punished. I have also the honour to request that your Majesty's Government should provide compensation for all the damage that has been done to British subjects on British territory.

Your Majesty will appreciate that these matters are very serious; I have therefore the honour to request that your Majesty will give them your earnest attention and let me have a reply as soon as possible.

G. H. BULLOCK.

*Addis Ababa, July 21, 1924.*

No. 16.

*Sir R. Coryndon to Mr. J. H. Thomas.*

Sir,

*Nairobi, July 25, 1924.*

I HAVE the honour to address you with regard to the migration of the Degodia from Abyssinia to the Northern Frontier District of this colony. These people have now penetrated as far as the Uaso Nyiro River within 80 miles of Meru, and their presence is causing considerable unrest amongst the tribes in the Northern Frontier District. It is pointed out by the officer-in-charge that the water is insufficient for the needs of the existing population as well as those of immigrants,

I have given instructions that the Degodia should be repatriated to Abyssinia in as peaceful a method as possible under the control of an experienced officer with troops. I have informed the British Minister at Addis Ababa accordingly. The operations will be conducted with care and discretion and, I anticipate, with success. I would point out, however, that quite apart from the losses which the Degodia are likely to sustain amongst their herds, the considerable trouble and expense involved are due to the failure of the Abyssinian authorities to secure an administration in their southern territory which should prevent such incursions into Kenya.

Information was given to the Abyssinian authorities through His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa of the situation which had arisen, and the migration of the Degodia. I have received no communication from Abyssinia in this matter, nor has any reply been sent to my representations.

2. As you are aware, the presence of military posts in the Northern Frontier District involves this colony in an expenditure of at least £40,000 per annum, expended on the maintenance of outposts to prevent raids from that country. Further, the fear of constant raiding from Abyssinia has the effect of driving tribes, such as the Boran and allied tribes, further down into Kenya territory, where they, in turn, dispossess other tribes of their pasturage and force them to trek further south. These movements considerably complicate the allocation of lands to the different native tribes, and have now reached a point at which they are coming into touch with agricultural development in settled areas. In such cases, this Government is faced with the alternative of either declining to allow pasturage of invading herds—through which, not infrequently, cattle disease is spread throughout the country—or of finding alternative land for them elsewhere by pushing other tribes back to their former locations, and so on, until the Abyssinian border is reached. The latter alternative necessarily involves further employment of troops and multiplicity of posts, to which the Inspector-General of the King's African Rifles has recently objected on military grounds.

3. It is, undoubtedly, a hard task for the Abyssinian Government to secure the good governance of Southern Abyssinia. Apparently considerable difficulties are experienced in obtaining the services of the right type of Abyssinian to take charge of the province on account of its climatic disadvantages. The result is that control is far too frequently left in the hands of unscrupulous underlings, who batten on raids and merely encourage every form of disorder as a means of filling their own pockets. Constant representations to the Abyssinian Government through the British Consulate have had the effect of obtaining the removal of many of these so-called Governors, but hitherto it cannot be said that any material change for the better has resulted. The Abyssinians have recently given up the post at Gadaduma, which they undertook to maintain. This withdrawal may lead to considerable trouble and dissensions amongst the different tribes who water there in the dry season.



4. The situation on the borders of Kenya is one which constantly repeats itself. This colony becomes the dumping ground of Abyssinian refugees, fleeing from their homes on account of misrule and ill-treatment, whose presence in the Northern Frontier District merely means that the tribes already resident there will suffer: there are constant fights as to the water supply, which increase as the water decreases. The result must be that they must either be left to fight it out amongst themselves—which is unfair to the tribes already in possession—or else that steps must be taken to send those refugees whence they came, which entails suffering on them both on the return journey and in their own country when they get back there. Further, if steps are not taken to prevent the recurrence of the persecutions of these people the same course of events will only be repeated, entailing considerable trouble and expense to this colony.

5. Then there is the further element of raiding parties from Abyssinia, who come across the borders to harry and rob the tribes on this side, to whom I have already referred. At present the burden of meeting this position of affairs falls on this colony. As you are aware, the Inspector-General of the King's African Rifles has recently recommended that the military administration in the Northern Frontier District should be replaced by Civil Administration. While I support this recommendation I do not consider that the present time is ripe for the change being made. The discussions naturally attending the cession of Jubaland have created a feeling of unrest amongst the border tribes, who do not feel certain of their position. Further, the repatriation of the Degodia necessitates action being taken by the military under the command of officers well acquainted with these tribes. In any case it will be necessary to replace a sufficient military force at several posts by either armed constabulary or police, and it must take time to recruit and train these men.

6. I shall address you further at length with regard to the question, but as you have invited my attention by telegraph, I refer to the proposal here. It is one which I support and recognise as desirable, but I would ask that no change be made until the proceedings in connection with the Jubaland cession are completed and local forces are available to fill the gap which will be caused by withdrawal of military commands. Otherwise I fear that there will be further and continuous disturbances which will make it still more difficult for this Government and the Italian Government to secure peaceful settlements of the tribes in both territories.

7. This drain on the resources of Kenya on account of the administration of 60,000 square miles of country which produce no revenue is perhaps insufficiently recognised. I would submit that the time has now come when the Imperial Government, with the aid of the League of Nations, may well consider whether the burden of preserving order amongst these Somali tribes should not be shared by others besides this colony. It would afford an admirable object lesson and problem for the League of Nations to secure order in the country lying to the south of Abyssinia and to the north

of this colony, which is now the happy hunting ground of raiders and refugees. If this area could be treated as a mandated territory and administered as such a very great burden on the finances of the colony would be removed.

8. It must, I think, be realised that the present state of affairs is prejudicial to all good government—it involves this colony in very heavy expenditure quite apart from the serious position of affairs resulting from constant agitation and unrest on the frontier. It must be recognised that the only country which can and should control these migrations of population—which are not only hostile raids but also flights of fugitives from persecutions at home—is the Abyssinian Government. The admission of Abyssinia to the League of Nations would, it was hoped, result in steps being taken by Abyssinia to prevent these abuses occurring in future. I regret to say that such is not the case, and I must once more urge that the administration of Southern Abyssinia should form a subject for full enquiry and consideration by the League of Nations.

I have, &c.

R. T. CORYNDON, *Governor.*

No. 17.

*Mr. Ramsay MacDonald to Mr. Bullock (Addis Ababa).*

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 11, 1924.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 14th August relative to the raids by Dejazmach Beru into Sudanese territory, and I approve the action which you have taken in the matter.

I am, &c.

J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

No. 18.

*Mr. Bullock to Mr. MacDonald.*

Sir, *Addis Ababa, August 19, 1924.*

I HAVE the honour to state that on the 6th August I received despatches from His Majesty's consul at Maji stating that a serious raid had been made by Abyssinians from his district in British territory west of Lake Rudolf, and also that the local authorities were considerably exercised about alleged activities of British officers well within British territory.

The following is an extract from a report by the Officer Commanding Troops, Kenya, Kakuma, Turkana, the 6th May, 1924, forwarded to me by Mr. Consul Hodson:—

“As far as I can gather, it appears that, as soon as Mr. Hodson went on safari into the Sudan, presumably *en route* for Kitgum, Kanyazmatch Walde Yeasa, Gerazmatch Asha Geria and Kanyazmatch Nadi proceeded with a force of about 150



riflemen, mostly their own people, with a few men of Kanyazmatch Gabre Mariam, to Natodomeri, just north of Lorientum. Here the force split up into small parties, varying from fifteen to forty rifles, which were despatched in different directions and raided the following areas independently: Lokwanamur, Natapara, Meyen, Kalin, Labur, Akanimangan and Northern Morueris. All the cattle in these areas, together with the sheep and goats and donkeys, were taken, but only a few camels. These were driven across Sanderson's Gulf at Lomogol and into the Marile or Gallaba country. (I gather from my investigations that the Gallaba were assisting the Abyssinians, and that their share of the spoils were the smaller animals unfit to be sent to Maji.)

"It appears that the spoils of this raid were many thousands of head of stock, and the whole of the natives inhabiting the British frontier zone have lost very considerably."

A few days previously I had received a note from the Abyssinian Government saying that in 1920 Major Dodds had promised Ras Taffari that British officials would neither make any buildings nor levy taxes on Abyssinians in the neighbourhood of the present frontier west of Lake Rudolf, in view of its possible alteration in the near future. The note then stated that British activities in this area had been reported, and requested that instructions should be given for them to cease.

On looking up Major Dodds's report of his interview with Ras Taffari at the end of November 1920, I found that the above request had been made, but had been very definitely refused. I accordingly pointed this out to the Abyssinian Government.

On the 13th August I addressed a note to the Empress, of which copy is enclosed, complaining of the raid referred to above, and of a large caravan of ivory poachers from British territory. I also pointed out that, at the interview of 1920, Dejazmatch Desta had been strictly cautioned to observe the present frontier and had been promised a map of it. I finally urged on the Empress the necessity of taking strong repressive measures, as the only means of preventing similar occurrences in the future. I have not yet received a reply to either of these notes.

I have, &c.

G. H. BULLOCK,  
*Chargé d'Affaires.*

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Enclosure in No. 18.

*Mr. Bullock to Her Majesty Judith, Empress of Ethiopia, Daughter of Emperor Menelik II.*

(After Greetings.)

Your Majesty,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Majesty that during the early part of this year officers of Fitaurari Mašhesha, with about 150 rifles, made a raid in British territory to the west of Lake Rudolf



and carried off many thousand head of cattle. The principal officers concerned were Kenyazmatch Walde Yeasa, Gerazmatch Andarge, Lij Rada, Ato Damaka and Gabra-Giorgis. Kenyazmatch Nadi died during the raid.

About the beginning of June a large caravan of ivory poachers, with 169 porters, arrived at Maji from Tibitit (Toposa), which is British territory.

These proceedings by Abyssinians from the Maji district render it more desirable than before that the British officers should increase their activities in that area. I am also informed by the British consul at Maji that the Abyssinians at Maji pretend not to know where the frontier is. But, as mentioned in my last letter to your Majesty, his Highness Ras Taffari informed Dejazmatch Desta, in the presence of Major Dodds that he would be given a map of the frontier and that he was to observe it strictly.

I am aware that your Majesty wishes to preserve the friendly relations which at present exist between Abyssinia and the British Empire, I consequently hope that your Majesty will cause the most vigorous measures to be taken to prevent and punish outrages of this description. I should like to be able to persuade your Majesty that if these acts of officials in the provinces are not punished in an exemplary way, they are bound to occur again, either under the same officers and Governors or under their successors. And your Majesty, I am sure, realises that two neighbouring nations cannot remain for ever on friendly terms, when the subjects of one nation are allowed to make raids on the other without receiving adequate punishment.

G. H. BULLOCK.

*Addis Ababa, August 13, 1924.*

No. 19.

*Mr. Ramsay MacDonald to Mr. Bullock (Addis Ababa).*

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 16, 1924.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 19th August relative to a raid by Abyssinians into British territory west of Lake Rudolf, I approve the terms of the note addressed by you to the Empress on the 13th August and enclosed in your despatch under reference.

I am, &c.

J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

No. 20.

*Mr. Amery to the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Colonial Office, May 30, 1925.*

TELEGRAPH early, for use in connection with publication of papers by Foreign Office, summary of any raids from Abyssinia into Kenya since your despatch of 25th July, 1924, distinguishing between objects of raids, e.g., robbery, ivory or slaves.

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No. 21.

*The Officer Administering the Government of Kenya to Mr. Amery.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Nairobi, June 10, 1925.*

Your telegram of 30th May.

No raids of importance have been carried out by Abyssinians since my despatch of 25th July, 1924. Minor incursions only have taken place, seven with the object of game or ivory poaching and one rifle running. The situation recently quiet as far as Abyssinians concerned, and offenders fled when molested. No casualties occurred to British subjects. Regret delay in replying, which was due to awaiting information from the military.

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